

NI Bulletin

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NI

From the Chairman

I use this opening page to say farewell as Chairman. On December 31, I conclude my six years as an officer of NI and my two years as Chairman of the Board. I will still remain a member of the Board of Governors, and in that position I hope to make some worthwhile contributions to our future successes. The governors scheduled a long meeting for October 25 to plan ways to ensure those successes.

As always, I wish all of you a wonderfully happy holiday season. With all the problems facing us at home and overseas, it may be difficult to have a happy and prosperous New Year—but with more fervor than ever before I wish you great things for next year.

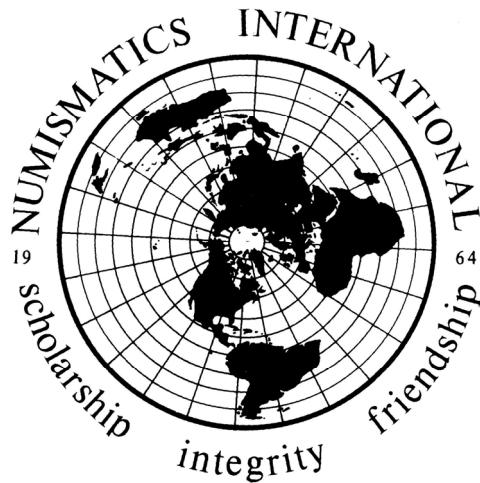
Howard Ford

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NI Educational Programs

World's Fair of Money

The Numismatics International Education Program Moderator, Howard A. Daniel III, manned a club table for NI (and IBNS, NBS & PCF) at the American Numismatic Association *World's Fair of Money*, July 30-August 3, 2008 in Baltimore. Over 400 packets with world coins from NI (and a banknote from IBNS) were given to young and new numismatists in the name of NI at the club table. And many references were also given to a few serious new collectors, and several scout counselors to assist with those scouts working on their numismatic merit badge.



There was an NI meeting at 12:00 PM (Noon) on August 2 in Room 318. Only three members attended; but there was a lively discussion of the show, of what we had acquired there and of the people we had met. About ten members stopped at the club table during the show and were given an elongated NI coin and a pinback to wear. Several members looked at the NI website placed on a CD-ROM by James Martin. This was very helpful in showing people the website when there is no Internet access in a convention center.

Howard was also the moderator for the International Bank Note Society meeting at 11:00 AM in the same room on the same date. There were 18 registered attendees and several more who did not sign in. Joseph E. Boling gave a talk on detecting the US OSS and British SOE counterfeits of WWII Japanese Invasion Money (JIM). During the last quarter of the meeting, there was a Mini-Fest where collectors of MPC and other military monies conducted a pay call with specially printed notes.

Howard also attended some of the PCF (Philippine Collectors Forum) meeting at this show on Friday which lasted four hours. About forty attendees signed in, and others dropped by for at least one talk. Howard was most interested in the talk given by James Taylor, the new owner of the ANACS. His firm is slabbing world coins, and if you have suggestions that will improve their service, please contact them at www.anacs.com. Please contact Ray Czahor at CookieJarPI@Verizon.net for further information about this and future PCFs.

Please contact Howard at HADaniel3@msn.com if you have any questions about the show: the meetings, the donations of coins and paper money, and anything else.

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NI Members Awarded at *World's Fair of Money*

NI Education Program Moderator Awarded

At the American Numismatic Association *World's Fair of Money*, NI's own educational moderator, Howard Daniel, was awarded one of five Glenn Smedley medals. The citation for the award described his volunteer work at ANA conventions and manning the club table for NI and other organizations. All of this volunteer work was started by William Spengler, who has since passed on, but he would have been smiling from ear to ear to learn about an award that involved NI. NI congratulates Howard for this recognition for his service to numismatics.



Howard A. Daniel III receiving the Glenn Smedley Award at the 2008 American Numismatic Association convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Left to right: ANA President Barry Stuppler, Vice President Patty Finner and Howard Daniel.

NI Members Receive Exhibit Awards at ANA

Several NI members participated in competitive exhibits at the summer ANA in Baltimore. Simcha Kuritzky was recognized for having accumulated more exhibition awards than anyone else at ANA sponsored events. This year, in Baltimore he took first place in the "Engraved Coins" category and placed second in three other categories, (he now has twenty-two first place and thirty-eight total awards). Simcha says he has exhibited at every convention that he has attended, and his first ANA occurred way back in 1982. Bob Fritsch won first place in the "Numismatic Literature" category with his exhibit "Henseler and Frey: A Swiss Pair." George Cuhaj won first place in the "Convention Theme: Star Bangled Baltimore," with an exhibit of contemporary medals of James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore from the 1877, Cardinal from 1886, until his death in 1922. NI congratulates these and all NI members who participated in the ANA competitive exhibitions.

NI

Our Lady of Hal

Bob Forrest, NI #2382

Our Lady of Hal¹ (now Halle, some 10 miles southwest of Brussels) is a Black Madonna² once owned by St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She gave this ancient wooden statue to her daughter Sophia of Thuringia (Elizabeth was the widow of the landgrave of Thuringia). Sophia, in her turn, gave it to her sister-in-law Mechtildis (or Matilda), wife of Floris IV, Count of Holland and Zeeland, and Lord of Hal. In her will, Mechtildis charged her daughter Aleydis (or Alice) with the task of donating the statue to the church of Hal. This was in 1267.³ The statue rapidly earned a miraculous reputation, as a result of which Hal became an important place of pilgrimage, and one frequented by kings and queens—Edward III of England visited it, for example; and in 1513 Henry VIII, before his fallout with the Vatican, presented the shrine with a valuable monstrance in gratitude for his victory over the French.



Figure 1

The bronze medal shown 1-1/2 times actual size in Figure 1 shows on the obverse the enshrined statue, robed, with legend "*NOTRE DAME DE HAL P.P.N. MDCCCLXVI*" (Our Lady of Hal, pray for us, 1866). The reverse shows the enthroned statue with the legend "*MATHILDE LEGUE ALICE DONNE LA VEN IMAGE AD MCCLXVI*" (Matilda bequeaths; Alice gives the venerable image AD 1266 [*sic*]). Thus the medal commemorates the 600th anniversary of the gift of the statue to the church.

¹ For good accounts of Our Lady of Hal see Joan Carroll Cruz, *Miraculous Images of Our Lady* (1993), pp. 24-26, and H. M. Gillett, *Famous Shrines of Our Lady* (1952), vol. 1, pp. 77-82.

² See Ean Begg, *The Cult of the Black Virgin* (1996), pp. 156-57. For a note on Black Virgins generally, see "Our Lady of Montserrat" in *NI Bulletin*, November 2000, note 2 (p. 317).

³ For a full explanation of how the statue got from St. Elizabeth of Hungary, via Matilda and Alice, to Hal, I am indebted to Raymond Decoster, the Dean of Halle (personal letter).

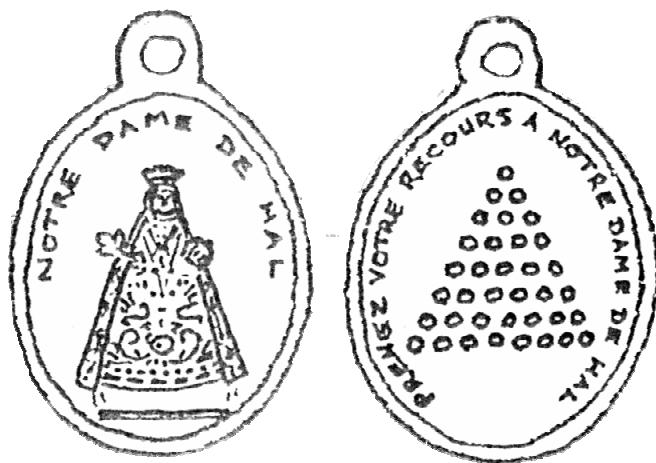


Figure 2

If you look closely at Figure 1 you will see, immediately below the robed statue on the obverse, a triangular array of dots. These are given a much more prominent billing on the reverse of the bronze medal shown 1-1/2 times actual size in Figure 2, where they appear with the legend "*PRENEZ VOTRE RE COURS A NOTRE DAME DE HAL*" (Take your appeal to Our Lady of Hal). These curious round objects represent 32 cannon balls which were fired into Hal during William the Silent's unsuccessful siege of the town in 1580, and all of which fell near to the shrine without causing it any damage whatsoever. This miraculous escape was, of course, attributed to the intervention of the Virgin Mary herself, and as a result the cannon balls are stored inside the shrine to this day as a reminder of those events. They can be seen again beneath the image of the Virgin on the obverse of the bronze medal shown 1-1/2 times actual size in Figure 3. This medal, like the one in Figure 2, is of 19th century date, and both (once the cannon balls are explained!) are self-explanatory. The Virgin and cannon balls also appear on more modern aluminum medals issued by the shrine, paired with a variety of reverses (e.g., the Sacred Heart of Jesus or St. Anthony of Padua). The foregoing details, though, serve as an explanation for all.



Figure 3

NI

Coins Countermarked with Political Messages and Related Issues

Gregory G. Brunk, NI #749

The major difference between political countermarks and governmental countermarks is that political stamps did not have a monetary purpose. Their goal was to advance a policy or the political ambitions of an individual, not to change the value of a coin or certify that it was genuine. Most political countermarks are not yet well known, and the reason for many stamps of this sort is disputed.

Until about fifty years ago, some numismatists claimed that most countermarked ancient coins, and even many medieval and early modern ones, had a political purpose. Good examples are the TIB and TIB AVG stamps that are found on coins excavated in Roman legion camps. Michael Grunwald (1946) argued they had the political motivation of legitimizing Tiberius in a hypothetical revolt of the German legions in 6 BC that is unrecorded in written history. After examining the statistical characteristics of thousands of such coins, numismatists realized their purpose was not political at all. Instead, the abbreviations indicate that a countermarked coin met a minimum weight standard and was "As good as a coin of Tiberius," who succeeded Augustus as Roman Emperor in AD 14.



Coin countermarked TIB from the Vindonissa legion fortress

Later examples of countermarks that upon first inspection seem to be political are the armorial stamps of the Grand Masters of the Knights of Malta. The contemporary Order of Malta is the successor of the medieval crusaders Knights Hospitallers, which was organized in Jerusalem in 1099. In 1309 the Knights became rulers of the island of Rhodes and gained the coinage right. They lost Rhodes to the Ottoman Turks in 1522, and in 1529 settled on the Mediterranean island of Malta, south of Sicily. Members of the order were mainly aristocrats from Europe's Catholic nations, and since the Order's records exist, it is possible to determine the reasons that they countermarked coins with various grand master's arms.

The first indication that the Knights were counterstamping silver coins comes from a comment made by Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt (1601-1622). He reported to the Knight's Council in 1609 that a number of the counterfeit German and Hungarian talers which had been seized from Turkish ships were stamped in imitation of his own stamp (Denaro 1963). His mark of three lilies in a beaded shield is known today on Dutch lion dalers and less commonly on German talers. The later Grand Masters Antoinie de Paule of Gascony (1623-1636) and Jean Paul Lascaris de Castellar (1636-1657) also countermarked their arms on foreign silver coins as an indication of genuineness.



Wignacourt shield countermark on a 1617 Dutch lion daler

Because of the great costs of its military activities, the Order's treasury became depleted of silver by the middle 16th century. Beginning in 1564, coins meant for circulation on the island were struck in copper, but had the value of the older silver coins. Their legend *Non Aes Sed Fides* means "Not Copper, but Trust." Forgers quickly went to work, and counterfeits became a major problem. In an attempt to combat counterfeiting, the genuine coppers were countermarked with the detailed arms of the current grand master every few years. Some of the coins remained in circulation for almost two centuries, and today many of them are almost smooth copper disks.



Very worn Maltese two tari copper coin with the countermarks of three Grand Masters

In similar fashion, many countermarks—such as the bundle of arrows that was used by the Estates General of the Netherlands in 1693—could be interpreted as having a political meaning if one was included to search for one. What was recognized in the last few decades is that virtually all the countermarks once called "political" had an economic purpose. Their symbolism was employed only because that was the natural thing to do. Nations and rulers usually employ symbolic devices on their coins, and often use different symbols on different denominations to make it easy for people to recognize their value. What, for example, is the quickest way to recognize the denomination of an American paper note? By its portrait.

Types of Political Countermarks

True political countermarks are so uncommon that a general reference has not been published. Most of the information about them is found in short notes in old journals, in auction catalogs, and in comments in numismatic newspapers. This series was compiled by searching such materials. The interpretations of earlier writers were tested to see if their explanations accorded with the dates and the types of coins that are countermarked. Often they do not. This either means an interpretation was somehow incorrect or a particular countermark is a fantasy.

At least ten sorts of political countermarks exist:

1. Protest coins removed from circulation, stamped with individual letter punches, and then put back into circulation. Most legends are simple, and the best known of these are the late 20th century issues of Northern Ireland.



Ulster Volunteer Force countermark on an Irish florin

2. Protest coins countermarked from prepared punches. A contemporary example is the Confederate Battle Flag on South Carolina commemorative quarters.



3. Political countermarks on coins that probably were sold as souvenirs. The best known pieces are the SEDAN countermarks that ridicule the ignoble defeat of French forces at the battle of Sedan during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871.



4. Souvenir countermarks that may have been made a long time after an event. Some French and Russian political countermarked coins may be of this sort. Many pieces probably should be called fantasies, but there often is no good way to distinguish among the contemporary and later issues so long after they were struck.



Three kopeks commemorating the 1917 Russian Revolution

5. Countermarked coins sold by political organizations as a way to raise funds.



Brazilian 2000 Reis countermarked Helmet / 1932 / C. O. to raise money for the San Paulo revolt against Getulio Vargas

6. Medal dies with political themes that were used to countermark coins at the time of an event. While their original purpose was to strike medals, on rare occasions such dies also were used on coins. The countermarked coins could then be worn as badges if holes were drilled close to the edges of the coins. One of the few legitimate series of this sort consists of pieces that commemorate the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette to the United States in 1824.



An example of the original medal



An 1824 half dollar stamped with the medal dies

7. Small busts of rulers and politicians. The exact origin of most countermarks of this type is unknown, but they are particularly common in the French series. Incuse countermarks of this sort seem to have been made using master punches cut to produce working dies. The writer does not know of a good explanation for the relief countermarks of this sort, but they probably had a different, initial purpose than stamping coins or dies. They might, for example, have been made to decorate silver objects, such as drinking flasks or jewelry. We will not know until a reader spots a similar stamp on something besides a coin.



An incuse bust of Napoleon on a Naples twenty lire

8. Medal dies that were used to stamp a few coins for the collector's market. This usually occurred after a private mint went out of business and its old dies were sold, but occasionally such pieces are mint sports made at the time by bored employees messing around with the presses. These medal dies produce relief images, but often are not very well struck. There are lots of them, but usually only a few examples exist from a particular die. Over a dozen coins, for example, are stamped with a Civil War token die that portrays Benjamin Franklin. They probably were made during the 1940s from a discarded die, and since all of them are still in pristine condition, they were undoubtedly sold to collectors of the day and immediately went into their cabinets.



9. Presentation pieces. These often are hard to interpret because the reason for them has been lost. A number of Papal States half baioccos are countermarked CERVARO. All of them were then turned into presentation medals by being holed at the top of the coin's wreath so they could be worn as badge, but no one any longer knows why they were issued.



10. Fantasies sold as legitimate issues, but later revealed to be bogus. The most spectacular fantasies of recent years are the Anguilla Liberty Dollars. They were marketed extensively in the coin press during the late 1960s, and illustrate the great difficulties that are involved in determining the origins of some countermarked coins. Only a decade ago, Richard Giedroyc (1998) revealed the real story of these pieces. Rather than coming from the Caribbean island of Anguilla, they were made in California by Scott Newhall, who was the editor of *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Rob Haeseler of *Linn's Stamp News* knew Newhall, and revealed to *Coin World* that these coins were countermarked in the basement of the newspaper!

When Newhall died in 1992, his obituary noted, "Mr. Newhall often said that he had a touch of P. T. Barnum in him, and as executive editor he served as sort of carnival barker, drawing crowds into the newspaper tent with his colorful sales pitch." One of Newhall's pitches was hyping the revolution of a thirty-five square mile "nation" that lacked roads, electrical power and an infrastructure of any sort. He allegedly sent a reporter to cover its revolution, and played up the fictitious events. In an article published in the Oct. 30, 1992, *San Francisco Chronicle*, Jon Carroll noted, "It may have been true that we were coining money in the basement.... Something about a breakaway Caribbean nation, a war with Britain, an island nation run from Fifth and Mission" (both quotes from Giedroyc 1998: 97).



Mexican Cuauhtémoc five pesos with Anguillan fantasy countermark

Many Liberty Dollars have black printer's ink rubbed into their recessed areas to make the countermark stand out, and to make it appear that the coins had circulated. Over 10,000 of the Anguillan countermarks were applied to a wide variety of silver dollar-size coins. The pieces received such great publicity that counterfeits of these fantasies were made in Europe for sale to collectors there!

Coins Engraved with Political Messages

There is a closely related sort of item. In collecting photographs for this series, the writer noticed that coins often are engraved with similar sorts of political messages as the countermarked pieces. A closer examination revealed that many engraved coins regarding any particular political subject must have been made by the same person since their style is identical. The best known pieces of this sort are French coins of Napoleon III. While some of them were made by bored French soldiers who were interred after their armies surrendered to the Germans during the Franco-Prussian War, others are very professionally done and identical in style. This suggests they were sold as souvenirs of Prussian occupation, and many were made by skilled jewelers.

Another example of this sort of series consists of the dozens of engraved Dutch coins of Queen Wilhelmina, who took refuge in London during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Many of them have their legend changed to read WILHELMINA IN LONDON, and the queen's crown is replaced by a helmet.



Acknowledgements

So many people contributed to this research that all of them cannot be mentioned, but a few deserve particular thanks. They include David Bowers, J. W. "Doc" Carberry, Georg Forster, Rich Hartzog, Markus Molenda, Russell Rulau, Henry Thoelle and the late Paul de Groot, who was a longtime contributor to the *NI Bulletin*.

A Request for More Information

In collecting data on political countermarks, the writer often recalled the way that the historian Herodotus introduced his comments about the various places he had visited in the ancient world. Herodotus would note, "The people of this region tell me...." Then he would recount a story without knowing if it was true. So long after the fact it is difficult to determine the reason for many countermarks, and some of the information presented here may be quite wrong!

There are many political countermarks that have never been noted in the literature. Indeed, the short announcement concerning this series that appeared in the *NI Bulletin* resulted in numerous new listings, and readers are encouraged to contact the writer at GregoryGBrunk@gmail.com or PO Box 125 Hudson, Iowa 50643, concerning unlisted types, new information, and errors in interpretation.

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<http://www.numis.org>

Personalities on Coins of Africa and Asia

Yuan Shi-Kai of China

Howard Ford, NI #LM90

For a number of years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the history of China greatly revolved around two men and the movements they represented. These men were General Yuan Shi-Kai and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. Toward the end of their conflicts and for a few years thereafter, Chinese numismatics also focused heavily on these two notable figures. The doctor will receive his essay in the near future. This essay will deal primarily with the general.

The Politics of Yuan Shi-Kai



In the years before 1908 General Yuan Shi-Kai was an extremely important figure in the imperial court of the Manchus in China. He had been sent as minister to Korea to try to protect Chinese interests against Japan's attempts to increase its control over that country. This enabled him to observe the Japanese military closely, and he realized fully the dangers to both Korea and China that the Japanese represented. His most memorable statement on the subject was that the Chinese should bury their heads in hard work for ten years and then raise their heads to confront Japan.

After his return to China he retrained his troops, using the methods employed by the Japanese in building their powerful army, which were basically the methods used by European armies, particularly the German. As the military commander of Gansu Province in the northwest of China, he had the best-trained, most modern, and most efficient army in all of China. War broke out between China and Japan late in 1894, and China was defeated in just a few months, being forced to give huge concessions to Japan. Yuan Shi-Kai evidently suffered no loss of prestige in the defeat, perhaps because most of the major battles took place in Korea, Taiwan, or the eastern coastal areas of China.

In the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, which had the support of much of the imperial court, he opposed the Boxers (the Fists of Righteous Harmony), thus incurring the hatred of those Chinese who also wanted to drive foreign imperialists out of their country, but winning the support of the Westerners who wanted to maintain their powerful presence in China. Support from Europe was always important to Yuan.

Then in 1908, Kuang-hsu or Guangxu, the Manchu Emperor, died, supposedly leaving orders for General Yuan to be executed, this being the proposed punishment for his strong republican leanings, which had led him to disagree frequently with the emperor's policies. The emperor's death was followed within one day by the death of his aunt and Yuan's royal supporter, the Dowager Empress, Ci-xi or Tz'u-hsi. The new emperor was a three-year-old child, Pu Yi, whose father, Prince Chen, became regent and dismissed the general from the court even though he was probably the best advisor available to the Manchus. Yuan's excuse for leaving the court was that he had an old foot injury which required rest in order to heal. A major rebellion in 1911—the Double Ten, so-called because it began on the tenth day of the tenth month—forced Chen to call the old general back from retirement because the army was still loyal to him. However, for some time Yuan chose to allow Chen to suffer the consequences of his insult in dismissing Yuan and declined to return to court, claiming that his foot had still not recovered. Finally, he did return, and with his dependable officers and well-trained troops he was able to quash the rebellion. Then he set out to establish a new government, a republic. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen (Sun Zhongshan) returned to China to become provisional president (<http://net.lib.byu.edu/estu/wwi/bio/xyz.yuansh.html>).



Sun (See photo above) served until the abdications of the members of the old ruling dynasty could be completed. The child emperor was forced to sign a document professing that he had been a bad leader for China and that he would therefore relinquish the throne. Yuan's importance at this time is seen in the fact that he was the person who signed the document guaranteeing the child's safety. Prince Chen also stepped aside. After several centuries, the rule of the Manchurians, the Ching dynasty, had finally come to an end.

But Yuan then failed to support Dr. Sun and his idealistic hopes for a republic. Yuan wanted to be president, and since the army supported him, it was necessary for Sun and his revolutionary party, the Kuomintang, to compromise with Yuan, who did take the presidency. Sun wanted the capital to be in Nanjing, but Yuan did not want to be that far away from his bases of power. After another compromise, Yuan had his way and the capital was established in Peking. He then proceeded to strengthen his position through treachery and murder. He assassinated several other generals and various political figures, including a major leader of Parliament, Sung Chiao-Jen, a dynamic leader of the Kuomintang. Sun was forced to flee for safety to Japan in 1913, from where in April he called for a revolt against Yuan. But, in spite of all of

Sun's best efforts, in October, Yuan was installed as the first president of the Republic of China. Sun's Vice President, Li Yuan-Hung (See photo below), a former naval officer, was forced to move to Peking, where Yuan could keep an eye on him as the general made his moves to expand his power.



Having set himself up in Peking, Yuan conducted himself as though he were a Manchu emperor. In fact, in 1915 he declared himself emperor. To his dismay, he was opposed in this not only by the provinces, where the new spirit of republicanism was very strong, but even by his own soldiers, whose loyalty to Yuan had insured his success in all his previous efforts to gain his ambitions. Japan then sent Yuan a list of twenty-one very harsh demands. Yuan caved in and agreed to all of them except a few of the most demeaning. His yielding to pressure from Japan shocked and angered many of his own army officers and a large part of the people of China as well (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuan_Shikai).

Yuan was forced to renounce all of his plans to become emperor, but he still expected to be president. However, the people had had enough of this gross and vicious individual. They no longer would accept him even as president. He died in 1916, a humiliated and broken man (<http://www.lexis nexis.com>), and Li Yuan-hung became President of the Chinese Republic, serving in 1916-17 and again in 1922-23 (<http://www.gwpda.org/bio/l/li.html>), the only man to serve more than one term as the Republic's president. Sun Yat-Sen returned to China and served the Republic notably until his death in 1925. But Yuan's legacy continued to plague China. The political unrest caused by his various schemes and by the fact that he allowed his army to become a powerful presence in Chinese politics, ushered in the era of the warlords; for the next two decades, various local generals seized power in their areas and governed the people as harshly as they chose.

The Coinage of Yuan Shi-Kai

The coin in the photo below the opening paragraph is not what you might have thought at first sight. Most of us are familiar with Yuan Shi-Kai's portrait on the coins of the Chinese Republic, particularly Y-329 through Y-329.4, silver Yuans or Dollars which have six characters above his head. Reading from right to left the six characters state: "Republic of China Year 3." The two characters on the reverse give the value of the coin as "One Dollar." See the photo on the left below.

Also, there are two other types which show seven characters above his head, adding the words "Made In" before the date. These are posthumous issues: Y-329.6 was made in Years 8-10, which were 1919 through 1921; Y-329.5 was also made in 1921 but differs from all the other types in that it has oblique reeding on the edge. In lower grades all of the types mentioned above are bullion types, containing about three quarters (0.7555) of an ounce of silver. See the photo on the right below.



However, the piece we are emphasizing in this essay has eight characters above the general's head: moving clockwise from about 9 o'clock we have the large character for "SU" and about 3 o'clock another large character for "KAN," so this is a coin from Kansu (or Gansu) Province, where Yuan at one time had been a key military figure. It is Y-407, made only in Year 3 (1914). It is scarce: its value in the 2005 KM was \$200 in VF and \$350 in XF, but in the 2007 KM prices jumped to \$450 and \$800 respectively. There are no smaller denomination silver coins from Gansu for Yuan Shi-Kai, unlike the standard Republic coinage in which we have 10 Cents, 20 Cents and 50 Cents, Y-326 to Y-328, with his portrait.

The first of Yuan's new silver dollars were introduced on Christmas Eve of 1914. The Tientsin Mint had distributed dies to mints in the provinces. The various provincial banks as well as the Bank of Communications and the Central Bank of China, distributed the new coins very effectively by exchanging citizens' old Chinese dragon dollars for the new dollars free of charge.

By 1917 about 185 million had been minted by several different Chinese mints, with more than 200 different die varieties known. They were intended to replace not only the dragon dollars but such foreign silver crowns as the Mexican 8 Reales and Pesos and the U.S. Trade Dollars. By July 1917 about thirty million Mexican "Dollars" had been exported and another nineteen million had been melted. Yuan's portrait was everywhere in China (<http://home.netvigator.com/~ykleungn/yuansk3.htm>).

Three other portrait coins exist in silver for Yuan. A dollar dated 1914 commemorated the founding of the Republic of China. This is Y-322, and appears immediately below.

This piece commemorated the founding of the Republic of China.



This handsome coin was re-struck in 1918, Y-322.1. The restrike is thicker than the original, 3.25 millimeters rather than 2.8. The same portrait appears on Y-332, an undated dollar with the beautiful Winged Dragon reverse, which is known to belong to 1916, the year of Yuan's death. It is a commemorative for the inauguration of Hung-hsien, but that is simply the name taken by Yuan when he proclaimed himself emperor. He did not live long after the coin was designed.

A few gold pieces complete the list of regular issue coins made for Yuan. Two \$10 pieces dated 1916, Y-333 in Red Gold and Y-333a in Yellow Gold, use the portrait of the early silver crowns but have a Winged Dragon reverse. The same basic portrait, with some differences elsewhere in the obverse design, appears on posthumous \$10 and \$20 coins of 1919, but these have the wreath reverse, as shown in the last photo above. The portraits on these gold coins are also said to be of Hung-hsien, that is, Yuan Shi-Kai as emperor. These are dated Year 1, which would be the first year of his new (and short-lived) empire.

All of these gold pieces catalogued above \$3000 some years ago. We will have an opportunity to see what they all might bring in 2008. One of these scarce gold coins was offered for bids this year, in the Maison Polombo Auction in Marseille, France.

Another gold coin, made at the Tianjen Mint in 1914, has never, to my knowledge, appeared in standard catalogs. This fact is rather surprising since it was minted early and at an important mint. It shows the familiar half-length side portrait of Yuan, but with a very different dragon from any noted above. It is probably considered a fantasy piece.

The discussion of gold coins will close with what is undoubtedly a fantasy, but a very interesting one nonetheless. Seven small letters on the lower right of the reverse state that the coin was made of genuine gold by a goldsmith in Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province. The value is given as 44.47, which would not be dollars, of course, but some combination of mace and candareens, denominations used frequently on dragon dollars. (<http://home.netvigator.com/~ykleungn/yuansk3.htm>).

Conclusion

Born of a mandarin family, Yuan Shi-Kai became a man of monstrous ambitions, which caused him to be deceitful, ruthless and murderous. It is said that he was for many years one of the most fiercely hated men in China, and that, I would think, is undoubtedly true. But, even so, coins bearing his portrait continued after his death to circulate in the millions. Also, a number of new designs, including some in gold, were issued with his portrait even though his actions in his last years had alienated millions of Chinese. We might wonder then why his coinage would continue to be minted after 1916 in a republic which despised him? I suppose that the men who replaced him in office thought that any attempt to introduce new coins with new designs would simply have been too difficult for them to accomplish at a time when they had so many other difficult tasks before them. They were attempting to found a viable new government and to govern a country that was far from united. Parts of the country still longed for the return of the Manchus. The warlords, of course, were concerned just for themselves; they did not want the Manchus back, but they had no sympathy for the republic or its elected leaders either.

The new government surely would have thought it far easier and wiser to continue with the coins accepted readily in 1914 by all of China. An extensive new silver coinage would have required the transportation of many thousands of ounces of silver across many hundreds of miles at a time when the reign of the warlords was creating much instability in large areas of the country; these generals would have liked nothing better than to have large amounts of silver try to pass through the areas they controlled. The idea of attempting to replace the Yuan Shi-Kai coins while travel and transportation of goods were so very difficult probably seemed extremely foolish and extraordinarily dangerous to the new leaders of the Republic of China.

NI

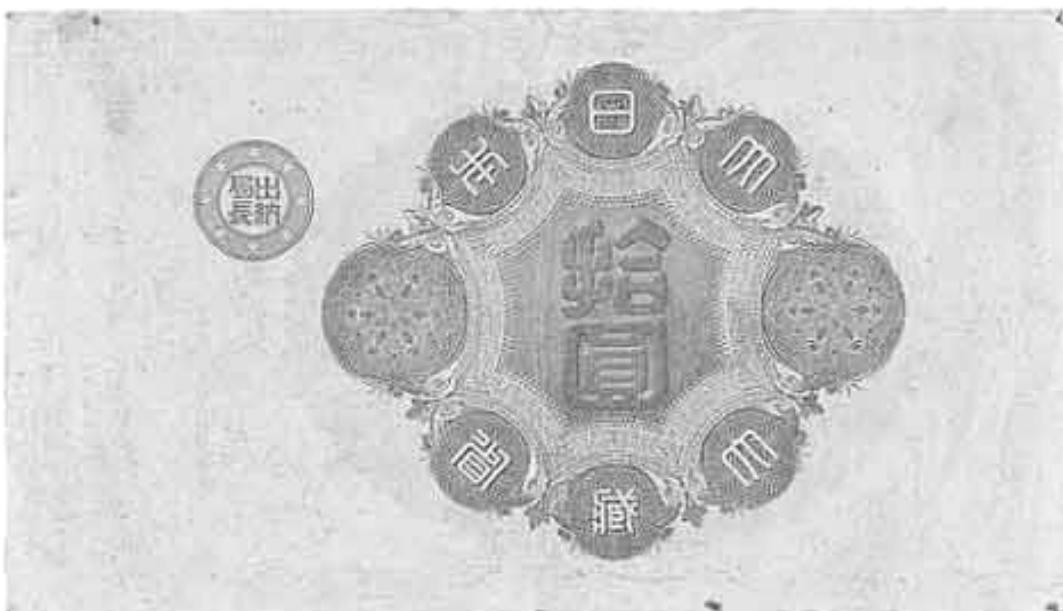
Coin Quiz Bob Fritsch, NI #LM134

India and South Asia is our theme this month.

1. What two languages are on the current coins of India?
2. Singapore coins dated 1985-1991 and 1992 are very similar in appearance.
What is the easiest way to tell them apart?
3. What is the major difference between the parallel coinages of Ceylon and Sri Lanka?
4. What facility is currently producing Malaysian coins?

NI

"Kaizo-shihei" or "Jingu Kogo" Note
Mari Ohnuki, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan



The face and back of the 10-yen Kaizo-shihei or Jingu Kogo Note

This note was officially called a *Kaizo* (improved) *shihei* note. With the portrait of Empress Jingu on denominations of one yen or more, it was also known popularly as the *Jingu Kogo* note.

In February 1881, the Meiji Government began issuing *Kaizo* notes in 10, 5, and 1 yen, 50 and 20 sen denominations; their design was completely different from that of the *Shin-shihei* notes (*Meiji Tsuho* notes).

The background to their issue was that *Shinshihei* note denominations issued in April 1872 were hard to distinguish because of their identical size and design; furthermore, because the ink used for coloring impregnated the paper poorly due to the nature of

the paper, the notes discolored easily and faded in contact with certain kinds of chemicals; worst of all, the denominations could easily be altered.

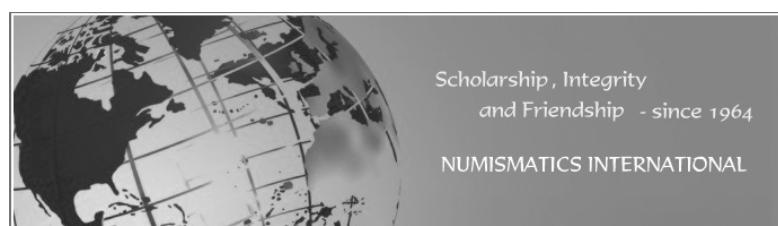
Kaizo-shihei notes (Jingu Kogo notes) were the first notes issued by the national government with a portrait in the design. Edoardo Chiossone, an Italian artist in charge of the etching of the original plates, worked for Dondorf Naumann in Germany, to which the printing of the Shin-shihei notes (Meiji Tsuho notes) had been entrusted. Chiossone oversaw the manufacture of the Kaizo-shihei notes; the American Thomas Antisell was in charge of manufacturing the printing ink; and the Germans Bruno Liebers and Karl Anton Bruck were in charge of the printing work.

It is said that Kaizo-shihei notes carried a portrait on their face in order to prevent them from being forged. Already in those days, in Western countries as well, the obverse of bank notes bore people's portraits. This was because the shape and the expression of a face are easily recognizable, and in cases of forgery, authenticity is easily determined. Yet the reason why Empress Jingu's likeness was chosen is unknown. It is said however that, because no portrait was available, Chiossone used as models several Japanese factory girls working at the *Shihei-ryo* in those days, while bearing in mind the description of Empress Jingu in the *Nihon Shoki*, the oldest Japanese historical compilation made by Imperial command, where she was described as "sagacious, with an attractive face and figure even when she was a child...." The *Shihei-ryo* was the forerunner of the Printing Bureau of the Ministry of Finance: first the *Shihei-shi* was established as a division of the Ministry of Finance in July 1871; its name was changed from *Shihei-shi* to *Shihei-ryo* in August of the same Year, to *Shihei-kyoku* later, and finally to *Insatsu-kyoku* (Printing Bureau) in December 1878. Incidentally, of all the historical figures whose likenesses have been carried on bank notes in Japan, only two have been women: Empress Jingu and Murasaki Shikibu, a court lady and novelist who lived 1,000 years ago and whose portrait figures on the 2,000 yen note issued in July 2000.

Because of its durability and other merits, the banknote paper used for Kaizo-shihei notes was made from *mitsumata* (*Edgeworthia papyrifera*), a bast fiber that had already been developed and used in Japan for *washi*, or Japanese paper. *Mitsumata* is a Japanese variety of the papyrus sedge tree; it is hardy and easy to cultivate. Because *mitsumata* paper was found very effective in preventing forgeries, it was used for banknotes long afterwards.

All images courtesy of Currency Museum, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan.

NI



Paper Money in Japan: National Bank Note
Mari Ohnuki, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan



National Bank Note, one-yen: Face and back (old type)

Issued in 1873. The front side shows the conquest of *Emishi* (ancient Japanese race) by Kamitsukeno-no-Tamichi; the back shows the Mongol invasion. The No.1 National Bank was the first bank established under the National Bank Act.

The Meiji government was modeled after the American system and in 1872 passed the National Bank Act. This resulted in the introduction of a national bank system to collect the convertible notes issued by the government, establish the gold standard, and supply funds for industrial development. The term in Japanese, "kokuritsu ginko," was a direct translation of the English phrase "national bank," but the word "national" was not meant to convey the sense of "owned and established by the government." Rather, this referred to private banks established under national laws and ordinances.

Notes issued by national banks were supplied by the government, and their basic design was the same for all banks. However, notes were additionally printed to show the name of the bank, its president and managers, and its official seal in order to distinguish the issuer. The initial denominations of national bank notes (old notes) were 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 yen; five denominations, all of the same color and size. The

government commissioned manufacture of the notes to an American company, and they were extremely similar in design to the national bank notes used in America at that time. In 1877, the design and dimensions were changed for the one yen and five-yen denominations. (These were called "new notes" in order to distinguish them from the "old notes" that were first issued.) The new notes were produced domestically, but old notes continued to be issued because printing was unable to keep up with demand.

The initial National Bank Act required banks to deliver government notes to the Ministry of Finance, for which they would be given government bond certificates of equivalent value. These certificates were then used as reserves on which to draw the equivalent value of bank notes from the ministry. Banks were allowed to issue up to 60 percent of their capital in bank notes (national bank notes) and were required to hold the equivalent of 40 percent of their capital in gold coin as reserves against exchange. These were extremely strict issuing conditions, and as a result only four national banks were established under the original act: Bank No. 1, Bank No. 2, Bank No. 4 and Bank No. 5. In addition to issuing bank notes, national banks provided ordinary deposits, loans, and other banking services, but most of their deposits were government funds and many of them engaged in reckless lending. When some of the companies in which they invested went bankrupt, the government pulled out its deposits and there was a rush of demands to convert notes to gold, plunging the banks into extremely difficult straits.

The government responded by amending the act in August 1876 to eliminate conversion to gold coin (causing national banks to use government notes as reserves against conversion), increase the issuing ceiling (80 percent of capital) and make other improvements. The amendments also allowed national banks to use *Kinrokusai* Hereditary Pension Government Bonds (given to noble and samurai families in exchange for the elimination of their *karoku* salary system), which were issued in large volumes in August of that year, as reserves against national bank notes. This resulted in the establishment of the No. 15 National Bank, an extremely large institution financed by noble and samurai families. Many other national banks were also established around the country so that a total of 153 were in operation by the end of 1879. The reforms allowed the four banks established under the initial act to recover from their difficulties and to obtain new banking licenses as national banks governed by the amended act. Most of these national banks subsequently converted to ordinary banks, but vestiges of them can still be seen in the names of some existing banks, for instance, No. 4 Bank and No. 77 Bank.

Amendments to the National Bank Act in 1883 replaced national bank notes with Bank of Japan notes, which were a convertible currency. National bank notes were gradually collected thereafter and their circulation was suspended in 1899, together with the circulation of government notes. At this time, all currency was unified into Bank of Japan notes.

All images courtesy of Currency Museum, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan.

NI

A Medal of the Geological Society of China

Mark McMenamin, NI #2563

In May 1986 I attended a geological workshop in Uppsala, Sweden, entitled "Taxonomy and Biostratigraphy of the Earliest Skeletal Fossils." The purpose of the workshop was to help paleontologists answer questions about tiny fossils from the Cambrian Period that were attracting a lot of geological attention. Most of these fossils are shells or shell fragments about a millimeter or less in length, causing geologists to nickname them "small shelly fossils." I had with me at the time a trove of new specimens from my field research in Mexico. These specimens proved to be of use at the meeting. Several paleontologists had brought fossils that they claimed represented ancient jellyfish relatives. Using the Mexican material, I was able to show that their specimens were in fact a type of shellfish known as a brachiopod.¹

Geologists at the meeting were very interested in the Mexican specimens of what eventually proved to be the earliest type of shelly animals. They belong to a group known as the cloudinids. Cloudinids grew shells shaped like tiny, nested cones or conical tubes. They occur as fossils in Namibia, Mexico, Brazil, China and elsewhere. I classified the Mexican species into the genus *Sinotubulites*, a genus first described from China. This usage evidently caught the attention of several Chinese geologists in attendance at the Uppsala meeting.² They seemed pleased with this work, and presented me with the medal that is described in this paper. Incidentally, a debate over whether the fossils ought to be called *Sinotubulites* or *Cloudina* simmered for twenty years, with some paleontologists³ opting to use both names to describe different types of cloudinids, and others placing all the cloudinids within the single genus *Cloudina*. The controversy was recently resolved in favor of the two name convention, preserving a distinction that has proved important for the paleontology of early animals.⁴

The medal in question appears to be struck in copper and is 49 mm in diameter. The obverse shows a standing geologist, holding a rock hammer in his right hand and examining a rock sample in his left. His right foot rests on a rock outcrop, perhaps the very rock that yielded the hammered sample. Chinese text translating to "Geological Society of China" appears in the foreground, and an outline map of China with a textured background.

The geologist portrayed on the obverse bears a remarkable resemblance to American geologist Amadeus W. Grabau (1870-1946).⁵ Known as the father of Chinese geology, Grabau served as professor of geology at Peking National University.

¹ M.A.S. McMenamin, "Two new species of the Cambrian genus *Mickwitzia*," *Journal of Paleontology*, vol. 66, n. 1, pp. 173-82 (1992).

² M.A.S. McMenamin, "Basal Cambrian small shelly fossils from the La Ciénega Formation, northwestern Sonora, Mexico," *Journal of Paleontology*, vol. 59, n. 6, pp. 1414-25 (1985).

³ M.A.S. McMenamin, *The Garden of Ediacara: Discovering the First Complex Life* (1998).

⁴ Zhe Chen, Stefan Bengtson, Chuan Ming Zhou, Hong Hua and Zhao Yue, "Tube structure and original composition of *Sinotubulites*: shelly fossils from the late Neoproterozoic in southern Shaanxi, China," *Lethaia*, vol. 41, n. 1, pp. 37-45 (2007).

⁵ A. Mazur, *A Romance in Natural History: The Lives and Works of Amadeus Grabau and Mary Antin* (2004).

Grabau authored numerous scientific papers⁶ and books. He conducted extensive geological field research in China in conjunction with other western scientific luminaries such as Davidson Black and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. Grabau died in Peking in March 1946.

The reverse of the medal centers on the seal of the Geological Society of China. The name of the society appears above the seal in English, and a wreath and scroll are visible beneath the seal. The year (1922) appears on the scroll, representing the year that the society was founded.



Figure 1

The seal of the society consists of a central Chinese character surrounded by four characters representing Chinese words. The upper character means "soil." The lower character means "rock." The left character means "mountain." The right character means "river." Taken together, according to Wenbin Zhu of Nanjing University, these characters are used to denote the earth. The seal thus serves as a creative way to unify four geological sub-topics within the earth sciences as a whole.



Renminbi: A New Yuan

The *renminbi* (literally "people's currency") is the legal tender on the mainland of the People's Republic of China. It is issued by the People's Bank of China (PBOC, central bank). The official abbreviation is CNY, although also commonly abbreviated as "RMB." In spoken Chinese, "yuan" is often pronounced "kuai" and the "jiao" as "mao." One yuan = 10 jiao = 100 fen. Paper currency includes 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao; and 5, 2 and 1 fen. Coins are 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao; and 5, 2 and 1 fen. Source, *China Daily.com* (<http://www.chinatoday.com/fin/mon/>) accessed October 8, 2008.



⁶ A. W. Grabau, "Problems in Chinese Stratigraphy, Part 2," *Science Quarterly of the National University of Peking*, vol. 1, part 2, pp. 33-64 (1930).

Colombian Medal to the Congress of 1834
In Honor of the "Arms of the Republic"
Herman Blanton, NI #LM115

The South American nation of Colombia declared its independence from Spain in 1810, winning its independence at the Battle of Boyaca in 1819. The leader of the republican army was, of course, Simon Bolivar. Bolivar is so famous that who among our readers can say he has never heard of him? I even named my son, Simon, after the liberator. Regrettably, Colombia has experienced political and civil strife during much of its nearly 200 years of independence, continuing even to this day.

Since independence, the nation has had many constitutions and name changes. The national arms, however, have not changed significantly since 1834, notwithstanding some minor modifications made in 1924. Many coins of Colombia feature the arms on the reverse side while the obverse frequently carries a bust of Bolivar or of a personified Liberty.

"Great Colombia," *Gran Colombia* in Spanish, was a federation of territories in northern South American and part of Central America proclaimed at the congress of Angostura in 1819. The official name of the federation was the Republic of Colombia; however, historians today use Great Colombia to distinguish this federation from the later Republic of Colombia established in 1886, which still exists today.

Great Colombia essentially dissolved in 1830 after the death of Simon Bolivar; however, the successor state in that portion known today as Colombia did not come into formal existence until 1831. One of the leaders in Colombia during the turbulent period after the revolution was Rufino Cuervo. He was the prefect of the "Department of Cundinamarca" which was reorganized into the "Province of Bogotá" in 1831, at which time the administrator's title changed to "governor."¹ A statesman, Cuervo was involved in many areas of public affairs, particularly active in public education, health and the arts. In 1835, he, along with a few other men from Colombia, travelled to Europe. The subject medal is a direct result of that trip. The image of Rufino Cuervo at the right is from his biography, as is the excerpt below, which states that



Rufino Cuervo


¹ http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gobernadores_de_Cundinamarca

on the same trip, the Paris mint struck a silver medal of 37 millimeters, with the arms of the Republic and along the perimeter this legend: *República de la Nueva Granada*, with a radiant star. On the reverse an oak wreath and the field area divided into eight lines: *Al – Congreso - de 1834 - que decretó - las armas - de la Republica - R. Cuervo*; the last in smaller letters. This medal was destined as a special gift to those who had been involved in the design of the national shield, which for him, as well as for the other founders of New Grenada, was a crowning of their efforts and the emblem of all their hopes.²

The same French engraver who designed this medal, Antonio P. Lefèvre, was contracted by Cuervo in 1836 to work at the Bogotá mint in order to organize the national coinage. He is credited for the coin designs introduced between 1836-8, for both the Bogotá and Popayan mints, and a one centavo pattern dated 1842.³ Simultaneous with his work at the mint, he was required to operate a school of engraving which was located adjacent to the mint. The first class started on June 21, 1837 for students selected by the mint and whose tuition was free. It is thought that Lefèvre returned to France within a few years after opening the engraving school.⁴ The quotation below is from Gabriel Giraldo.

With the dissolution of the "Great Colombia" and the organizing of the Republic of New Grenada, there was a renewed effort to promote the art of engraving within the nation. Rufino Cuervo was commissioned to recruit in Paris and to contract an engraver to standardize the coinage of the Republic in compliance with the law of April 20, 1836. The contract was concluded in Paris and "was approved with lively expressions of gratitude and satisfaction." The engraver chosen was the Frenchman Antonio P. Lefèvre, who not only had to meet the functions of the mint but "give free lessons in design and engraving to twelve apprentices." In the official press there appeared a notice of the arrival of Lefèvre and said: "Those young people who want to receive such lessons, shall apply in writing to the Mint Director, who will select those to be admitted." The new engraving school was received with enthusiasm.⁵

The specimen illustrated below is the only example I know of and do not have any information concerning quantities produced. If the Cuervo information above is correct, then the medal was produced in Paris, but Cuervo does not indicate whether there was only one specimen made or multiple specimens to distribute among the members of congress. There is also the possibility that Cuervo is erroneous and the medal was produced at the Bogotá mint from dies made either in Paris or locally. Posada⁶ lists the medal as number 119, without illustration and gives the diameter as 35mm. This medal is not included in a list of holdings of the Bank of the Republic⁷ (which oversees the national collection).

² Ángel and Rufino José Cuervo. *Vida de Rufino Cuervo y Noticias de su Época*, (Paris: A. Roger and F. Chernoviz, 1892), Vol. 1, p. 244.

³ A.M. Barriga Villalba, *Historia de la Casa de Moneda*, (Bogotá: Banco de la Republica, 1969), Vol. III, pp. 39, 49-50.

⁴ Website of *La Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango* in Bogotá. "LEFEVRE, Antonio P. (Grabador y Escultor)" <http://www.lablaa.org/blaavirtual/todaslasartes/diccionarioart/diccionarioart14a.htm>

⁵ Gabriel Giraldo, *El grabado en Colombia*, (Bogotá: Editorial ABC, 1959), pp. 132-33.

⁶ Eduardo Posada, *Numismática Colombiana*, (Bogotá: 1937), p. 103

⁷ Ignacio Henao, personal communication, February 17, 2008.



The Arms of the Republic Medal

(Image enlarged)

Obverse: Arms of New Grenada surrounded by the legend *REPUBLICA DE LA NUEVA GRANADA* (REPUBLIC OF NEW GRENADA), with engravers name below in small letters, *A.P. LEFEVRE*. Starburst design at bottom. **Reverse:** Oak wreath with inscription within *AL CONGRESO DE 1834 QUE DECRETO LAS ARMAS DE LA REPUBLICA* (TO THE CONGRESS OF 1834 THAT DECREED THE ARMS OF THE REPUBLIC), with name below in small letters, *R. CUERVO*. Silver, 37mm, 33.6g., Circa 1836-7.

The medal is particularly handsome for its coat of arms, which is in high relief. The coinage of the era typically has a low relief design and frequently poorly struck. Here is an image of a sixteen-peso gold coin (in superior condition), which was designed by Lefèvre.



Heritage Rare Coins

Republic of New Grenada, sixteen pesos, gold, 1840 Bogota RS

N

Identifying India Native States: Hyderabad

Howard Ford, NI #LM90

Most of the gold and silver coins of twentieth-century Hyderabad are easy to identify because of the imposing presence on the coins of the beautiful architecture of the Char (or Chahar) Minar with its four minarets and four arches. The photo shows a gold coin, a 1/2 Ashrafi, of Mir Mahbub Ali Khan II, who was the ruling Nizam from 1869 to 1911(AH1285-1329). The coin shows all four minarets and one arch. It also shows the mosque at the top.



(enlarged 2×)

Another way to help identify coins from Hyderabad is to look at the numbers. The Arabic date is on the obverse and the year of the Nizam's reign on the reverse. If you do not recognize some of the numbers, specifically the 4 (the *char*), as well as the O, the 6 and the 7, that is because Hyderabad Arabic forms these numbers differently from the Arabic of other areas. The introductory pages of the KM catalogs will help you with these unusual formations.

The photo coin is from 1328 (1910). It is from Year 40 of the Nizam's reign. The regnal year is formed with the *char* from Hyderabadi Arabic and the zero from standard Arabic. Although this regnal year is not specifically shown in KM, the coin is similar to those listed as KM #Y43.2. Our specimen is a BU. It was made at the Hyderabad Mint, which is also called "Farkhanda Bunyad," meaning "of Happy Foundation." On the coins the letter *ain* appears inside the gateway. We might see a full *ain* (similar to a capital "E" in western script) or a partial *ain* (similar to just the top half of the capital "E") on various types. The weight of the gold is 5.5890 grams, with a purity of 0.9100. The other sizes of gold made with this design are the 1/8, 1/4 and 1 Ashrafi. In silver the Char Minar appears on the 2, 4 and 8 Annas (equivalent to a 1/2 Rupee), as well as the Rupee.

The Char Minar also appears on the coins of the succeeding Nizam of the city, Mir Usman Ali Khan, who minted all of the same gold and silver types made by his predecessor. The younger Nizam ruled from 1911 to 1948, when Hyderabad was forced by an economic blockade to join the new Union of India. The Nizams had the reputation of being among the world's wealthiest men. One British woman said that she had been escorted by a court lady to a lower level of the palace where she saw

rows and rows of trucks, each loaded with gold or jewels, ready to leave at the first sign of trouble, or so the original plan had been. Unfortunately, the trucks had been there so long that they were badly rusted and the tires had rotted, so they were not going anywhere fast.

"*Char Minar*" is Urdu for "Four Minarets." The four arches are the "*Char Kaman*." Urdu, which is the official language of India's neighbor, Pakistan, is quite similar to Hindi. The other major language spoken here is Telugu, but many citizens speak Maratha, Decanni, or Garboli, which is related to the language of Gypsies as far away as Europe. This mixture, joined with a particularly unusual accent in this area, has come to be called Hyderabadi Hindi.



The Char Minar was built over 400 years ago by the founder of the new city, Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah, to celebrate the end of a disastrous plague. The ruler was looking for a new location for his capital because he needed a better water supply than he had had in his previous capital, Golconda. He started his new city on the south bank of the Musi River, building the arched structure right at the intersection of the four chief roadways into the city. Over its four arches, 149 steps lead to a mosque which faces west toward Mecca. The edifice is the gateway to the city, and the city is the gateway to Southern India. Every evening the building is illuminated, creating a gorgeous spectacle for those who are seeing it for the first time but also a beautiful and welcome sight for natives who are viewing it for the ten thousandth time.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charminar>).

Hyderabad is the capital of India's largest state, Andhra Pradesh. It is now India's fifth largest city and the world's forty-first largest, with over three million people in the city and over six million in the metropolitan area. So many high-tech companies have buildings in Hyderabad that the city is sometimes called "Cyberabad" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhagyanagar>).

NI

Quiz Answers

1. English, Hindi.
2. For 85-91, the shield is higher than the lions (ribbon curves up) while the more recent ones have the lions higher than the shield (ribbon curves down).
3. Crests are different, in addition to some inscriptions.
4. Royal Malaysian Mint.

Lithuanian Mint **Schedule of Commemorative Coins for 2009**

First quarter 2009

Coin dedicated to Vilnius – European Capital of Culture 2009

Denominations:

50 litas (proof)

1 litas (circulation), 1.0 million pieces

Second quarter 2009

Coin from series dedicated to mark the millennium anniversary of the mention of the name of Lithuania.

Denomination: 100 litas (proof)

Third quarter 2009

Coin dedicated to the Tytuvėnai architectural ensemble (from the series “Historical and Architectural Monuments of Lithuania”).

Denomination: 50 litas (proof)

Fourth quarter 2009

Coin featuring Lithuanian nature.

Denomination: 50 litas (proof)

Metrological specifications:

1 litas

Alloy of Copper and Nickel, diameter 22.30 mm, weight 6.25 g

50 litas

Silver Ag 925, diameter 38.61 mm, weight 28.28 g

100 litas

Gold Au 999.9, diameter 22.30 mm, weight 7.78 g

Information from the Lithuanian Mint

Lithuanian Mint
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Canada, the United States, and the Flight from Silver

Howard Ford, NI #LM90

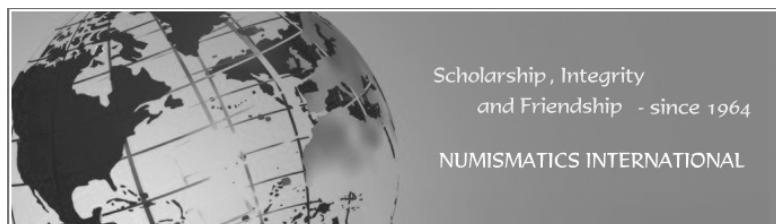
Among the many differences between the coins of Canada and the United States are those caused by the ways the two countries responded to the rising price of silver in the 1960s. Through 1964 each country made its regular circulation coinage of 10, 25 and 50 cents out of silver. In Canada the silver content of the coins was 80%, with 20% copper, while in the US it was 90% silver and 10% copper. Canada was also still making a silver dollar at this time, with the same percentage of silver as appeared in the minor coins. The USA, of course, had stopped striking silver dollars almost thirty years before.

Canada continued to make its coins from 10 Cents through the Dollar with silver in 1965. The US, however, abandoned silver for its dimes and quarters after 1964; as of 1965 they were made totally of copper-nickel. The situation was different for the half dollar. This was the new Kennedy half, introduced in 1964 with content of 90% silver. It retained some silver in 1965, though the silver content was reduced to just 40%, and this situation of having silver plus copper-nickel in the halves continued through the 1970-D and 1970-S issues, neither of which was struck for circulation, the 70-D appearing only in Mint Sets and the 70-S only in Proof Sets. After that date, the regular issue Kennedy Half was also of copper-nickel.

Canada planned to change the design of the queen's portrait for 1965, and this would have provided them with a good excuse for changing the metallic content, but they continued with the 80% silver for 1965 and 1966. Then for 1967 Canada prepared to make commemoratives for the 100th anniversary of Confederation. These just had to be of silver, you might think. But notice the strange situation reported in the KM catalog. For the 10 Cents and the 25 Cents the issues began with 80% silver and 20% copper, KM67 and 68, but then switched to 50% silver and 50% copper, KM67a and 68a! According to KM, the 50 Cents, KM69, contained 80% silver all through its production, as did the Dollar, KM70. However, the real situation might have been more confusing than KM says. Kitco indicates that in 1967 the reduction in silver fineness also involved the 50 Cents. Then, in 1968, supposedly all of these Canadian denominations changed to nickel—not copper-nickel, just nickel—except that, according to Kitco, some coins of 50% silver were actually issued (<https://www.kit.com/showthread.php?t=176>). So the differences in the coins of the two large neighboring countries continued and became more numerous. Afterwards in both countries, silver was reserved for certain commemorative issues.

The denominations stamped on the minor coins also varied. Canada made 10 Cents, 25 Cents and 50 Cents. The USA made Dimes, Quarter Dollars and Half Dollars.

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Book News and Reviews

A new book is in preparation, *General Catalog of Brazilian Tokens*, by A.O.F. de Barros.

Celebrating 50 years of numismatic activities, author A. de Barros intends to publish by the end of 2008 the first general catalogue of Brazilian metallic tokens. The catalogue will list, for the first time, more than 1500 different types of metallic tokens, thoroughly catalogued by State of the Federation and type of business. Included in the catalogue will be tokens issued by non-governmental entities, such as gold mines, haciendas (fazendas), sugar *engenhos* (sugar plantations or mills), factories, commercial businesses, transportation firms (freight and passengers), coffee houses (confeitarias), restaurants, bars, cafes, cinemas, theatres, leper colonies, casinos and other types of businesses. The catalogue will be fully illustrated.

The catalogue will contain not only the tokens catalogued by Meili, Souza Lobo, O. Eklund, D. Ludolf and R. Rulau, but also hundreds of other unpublished types that appear in different Brazilian and foreign private collections, including the author's. For each catalogued token a description of both obverse and reverse will be given, as well as the metal, module diameter, degree of rarity and market value in 4 different grades.

This bi-lingual book (Portuguese-English), unprecedented in terms of Brazilian exonumia, constitutes the achievement of 50 years of collecting, cataloguing and researching and should become the standard reference on the subject. The first edition of this work will be limited to only a few hundred copies and will be released in Brazil, the United States and Europe. Collectors and dealers interested in obtaining the catalogue are invited to reserve copies by contacting the author:

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***Encyclopedia of Small Silver Coins of the World with Footnotes to History*, by Roger deWardt Lane**, has been published (2008) in two-printed versions, hardbound and soft cover. This is the latest incarnation of *Brother Can You Spare A Dime? - Modern Dime Size Silver Coins*. This work, a multi-year project to study these coins as miniature engravings of art and history, was first published in 1997. Several years later a CD-rom was produced as the Second Edition. The author won a Numismatic Literary Guild Award for this edition. This, the Third Edition, a 600-page book with over a thousand enlarged scans of the coins from the mid 1800's to 1970 show coins from around the world, from Afghanistan to Yemen. These coins were the money of the people at the time; one would represent a day's work, purchase a meal or a night's entertainment. Kings, Queens and Statesmen are portrayed on dozens, with short biographies of many. More than a numismatic book, this anthology is a fine way to develop a better understanding of money in use during the previous two centuries.

Coin prices are not included, since world economic and political conditions as well as collector interest constantly change the values.

Both editions are available thru the Internet and the soft-cover edition may be ordered through Amazon or your local favorite bookshop. Preview pages are offered on the publisher's site, www.lulu.com.

Information supplied by the author

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New Issues from West Africa

Howard Ford, NI #LM90

In our bulletin for July-August 2008, we took note of some recent issues of gold coins coming from countries in West Africa: Burkina-Faso, Ivory Coast and others. We closed with a statement that we might expect more countries in the area to issue similar coins in the future.

Now, one more has already appeared. It comes from Niger and is dated 2007. Like all the preceding issues, it is a 25,000 Franc Essai in Proof, containing 1/4 of an ounce of gold, and displaying the country's shield on the obverse and an example of the native wildlife on the reverse. It is the Caracal or "African Lynx" that appears on the reverse for Niger. The Caracal looks like a member of the Lynx family, with its typical long tufted ears; but it seems to be related to the Serval and not at all to the true lynxes. Its habitat includes South Africa and in particular a narrow strip running from western Africa (Niger and Nigeria) into western Asia, where it is called the "Asiatic Lynx" and where its tufted black ears got it its name. "Caracal" comes from a Turkish word for "black ears" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caracal>).

I have just learned that another 25,000 Francs 2007 from a West African country has very recently appeared on the market; this one is from Senegal. It is a Mirror Proof Essai, with a gold weight of 1/4 ounce. The animal on the reverse is the Cheetah.

Each of the six types issued thus far evidently exists in both Matte Proof, with a total mintage of 55, and a Lustrous Proof, with a mintage of only 30. I am hoping that we will eventually see issues from Togo and other countries.

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Library Report

The Library thanks James Martin for donating the book *100 Jahre schweizerisches Münzwesen, 1850-1950*.

The library number is JH,87:WeiF:1964:SM

This and other books in the NI Library are available to NI members for the cost of the postage. Refer to the NI web site for the Library catalog and email your requests to the Library at the email address on the inside front cover of the NI Bulletin; or mail your requests to the PO Box shown on the inside front cover of the NI Bulletin.

David Gracey